

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 OMB-01 OPIC-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 DRC-01 /184 W

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R 121503Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0533

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 1183

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG LY

SUBJ: PETROLEUM DISCUSSIONS WITH OASIS MANAGER

1. CHARGE AND ECONOFF SPOKE TO OASIS MANAGER SWALES SEPTEMBER 11. SWALES INFORMED US THAT OASIS HAD BEEN GIVEN "FLEXIBILITY" TO INCREASE PRODUCTION TO 860 THOUSAND BBLS PER DAY (UP FROM 763 THOUSAND FOR THE MONTH OF JULY 1973.) SWALES CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE OF OASIS. HE PLEASSED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH LIBYAN CHAIRMAN HAWISA AND INTIMATED THAT MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM UNDERSECRETARY MUNTASSER HAS AGREED TO REPLACE SECOND LIBYAN MEMBER OF OASIS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. (SWALES LESS THAN SATISFIED WITH THIS COLLEAGUE.)

2. PERSONNEL PROBLEMS REMAIN SERIOUS. DESPITE COOPERATION FROM BOTH BOARD CHAIRMAN HAWISA AND
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OASIS POPULAR COMMITTEES, OASIS UNABLE OBTAIN WORK

PERMITS FOR NEEDED EXPATRIATE TECHNICAL STAFF.
FIFTY-FIVE OASIS FAMILIES HAVE DEPARTED SINCE BEGINNING
1973. AN ADDITIONAL 20 TO 25 ARE EXPECTED TO LEAVE
PRIOR TO END OF YEAR. SWALES PREDICTS THAT UNLESS
WORK PERMIT PROBLEM SOLVED WITHIN 60 TO 90 DAYS,
HE WILL BE UNABLE TO PRODUCE MORE THAN 45 TO 50
PER CENT OF CURRENT PRODUCTION. ON POSITIVE SIDE,
OASIS POPULAR COMMITTEES CAUSING NO SERIOUS PROBLEMS.
LIBYAN EMPLOYEES ARE EXPECTED TO VOTE SOON TO COMBINE
THE COMPANY'S FIVE COMMITTEES INTO ONE. THIS SHOULD
ENABLE SWALES, WHO HAS PROVEN TO BE THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
AMONG OIL COMPANY MANAGERS IN HANDLING COMMITTEES, TO
WORK OUT MOST--IF NOT ALL--PROBLEMS THESE REPRESENTATIVES
ARE LIKELY TO RAISE. HE HOPES THEY WILL START GETTING
WORK PERMITS FOR NEW EXPATRIATE PERSONNEL.

3. MOST URGENT PROBLEM SWALES FACES IS THAT OASIS TANKS
ARE NOW CHOCK FULL OF SHELL OIL WHICH HE CANNOT SHIP.
SHELL STILL OWNS ONE SIXTH OF EVERY BARREL OF OASIS
OIL PRODUCED, REPEAT PRODUCED. SEPT 11 MUNTASSER VISITED
OASIS HEADQUARTERS--IN ITSELF A MOST UNUSUAL STEP--APPARENTLY
IN GREAT AGITATION THAT SOON EVERY SIXTH BARREL OF OIL
THAT OASIS EXPORTS, REPEAT EXPORTS, COULD BE
ATTACHED BY SHELL AS HOT OIL.
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